

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) Device for the automatic formation of packs of panels {11} of electro-welded mesh, arranged downstream of a production machine comprising a work plane, the device comprising:

expulsion means {12} able to arrange said panels {11} emerging from said machine onto an accumulation plane {13} located as an extension to the work plane of said machine,

turnover means {14} able to turn over every other of said panels {11} with respect to the position in which ~~it~~ said every other of said panels exits said machine, ~~and~~

discharge means {16} to discharge said panels {11}, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~
and

switching means {15} arranged downstream of said expulsion means {12} and able to direct, alternately and substantially continuously, at least one of said panels {11} either directly towards said accumulation plane {13} or towards said turnover means {14}.

2. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said turnover means {14} comprise guide means {30} conformed ~~so as~~ to rotate said panels {11} sent towards them substantially through 180° and to position them overturned with respect to said accumulation plane {13}.

3. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said guide means ~~(30)~~ comprise at least a first inclined rectilinear segment ~~(30a)~~ and at least a second curved segment ~~(30b)~~ able to connect said first rectilinear segment ~~(30a)~~ with said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~.

4. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second curved segment ~~(30b)~~ defines an angle of about 180°.

5. (Currently amended) Device as in ~~any claim from 2 to 4 inclusive,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said turnover means ~~(14)~~ comprise conveyor means ~~(36)~~ able to transport said panels ~~(11)~~ at least along said first segment ~~(30a)~~ and part of said second segment ~~(30b)~~.

6. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said conveyor means comprise at least a chain ~~(36)~~.

7. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said conveyor means ~~(36)~~ comprise a shaped belt.

8. (Currently amended) Device as in ~~any claim from 2 to 7 inclusive,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in an initial zone of said first segment ~~(30a)~~, said turnover

means (14) comprise attachment means (35) able to prevent said panels (11) from turning towards said expulsion means (12).

9. (Currently amended) Device as in ~~any claim from 2 to 8 inclusive~~, characterized in that wherein said turnover means (14) comprise second expulsion means (37) arranged in a terminal zone of said second segment (30b) and able to take said panels (11) towards said accumulation plane (13).

10. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said switching means (15) comprise at least a board (27) movable between a first position wherein it said board directs said panel (11) directly towards said accumulation plane (13) and a second position wherein it directs said panel (11) towards said turnover means (14).

11. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said expulsion means (12) are arranged downstream of the machine which produces said panels (11) and comprise a frame (20) on which are mounted rollers (21, 22) arranged on opposite sides with respect to a plane of feed (23) on which said panels (11) are able to advance.

12. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one (21) of said rollers is movable by means of actuator means (24) between an inactive position wherein ~~it~~ said at least one of said rollers is relatively distant from said

plane of feed ~~(23)~~, and an active position wherein wherein ~~it~~ said at least one of said rollers is in contact with at least one of said panels ~~(11)~~ passing on said plane of feed ~~(23)~~.

13. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said discharge means ~~(16)~~ comprise at least two rotary elements ~~(48)~~ each one having a blade conformation, and able to selectively rotate around its own median axis ~~so as to~~ cause the fall and discharge of said panels ~~(11)~~.

14. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said discharge means ~~(16)~~ are arranged in correspondence with said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~.

15. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said turnover means ~~(14)~~ are arranged above said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~.

16. (Currently amended) Device as in ~~any~~ claim ~~hereinbefore~~ 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising auxiliary guide means arranged at outlet from said turnover means ~~(14)~~, and able to temporarily retain at least a first overturned panel ~~(11)~~ above said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~ in order to allow a second straight panel ~~(11)~~ to be positioned superimposed.

17. (Currently amended) Method for the automatic formation of packs of panels (11) of electro-welded mesh, comprising:

a first positioning step ~~to position~~ at least one panel (11) on an accumulation plane (13) arranged as a substantial extension of the work plane of the a machine which produces the panels (11),

~~a second turnover step~~ turning over by means of turnover means (14) ~~to overturn~~ at least every other one of said panels (11) with respect to the position in which ~~it~~ said at least every other one of said panels exits said machine in order to arrange ~~it~~ said at least every other one of said panels overturned above said accumulation plane (13), and

~~a third step to discharge~~ discharging said panels (11), ~~characterized in that it provides that wherein~~ at least every other panel (11) is alternately directed, by means of switching means (15), either directly towards said accumulation plane (13) or towards said turnover means (14), ~~so as~~ to render substantially simultaneous said first positioning step to position a first panel (11) on said accumulation plane (13) and said second turnover step to overturn a second panel (11).

18. (Currently amended) Method as in claim 17, ~~characterized in that it provides that, wherein~~ at the start of the cycle, at least two panels (11) are arranged in cooperation with said turnover means (14) before sending a third panel (11) towards said accumulation plane (13) in order to constitute an accumulation supply in said turnover means (14) comprising at least one panel (11).

19. (Currently amended) Method as in claim 17 ~~or 18, characterized in that~~
wherein each of said panels (11) takes about 4 seconds to be positioned on said
accumulation plane (13) and then discharged.

20. (Currently amended) Method as in ~~any~~ claim from 17 to 19 inclusive,
~~characterized in that it provides that~~ wherein an overturned panel (11) is positioned on
guide means arranged above said accumulation plane (13), and ~~that~~ said overturned panel
(11) is then discharged on a subsequent straight panel (11) arranged on said accumulation
plane (13) in order to allow the simultaneous discharge of a pack of two panels (11).